

## Claims

- Sub C1  
Sub #48
1. An agent comprising a protein complex comprising an oligomeric form of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin (MAL) and a further reagent which is combined with MAL such that it is carried into the nucleoplasm of cells which are susceptible to MAL.
2. An agent according to claim 1 wherein said further reagent is coupled to MAL by conjugation.
3. An agent according to claim 1 wherein said further reagent is coupled to MAL by covalent bonding.
4. An agent according to claim 3 wherein the said further reagent is covalently bonded to MAL by way of a linking or spacer group.
5. An agent according to claim 1 wherein said further reagent comprises a polypeptide or protein which is fused to MAL.
6. An agent according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said further reagent is a cytotoxin, a microbial toxin or an antibody.
7. An agent according to claim 6 wherein said further reagent comprises a monoclonal antibody.
8. An agent according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said further reagent comprises a labelling agent.
9. An agent according to claim 8 wherein the labelling agent is biotin or a radioactive label.
- INS C7

Sub C9  
10. An agent according to claim 9 which has a radioactive label comprising  $^{125}\text{I}$ ,  $^{14}\text{C}$  or  $^{35}\text{S}$ .

Insert  
5 A3  
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent according to any one of the preceding claims, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

12. A composition according to claim 11 which is in the form of a solution or cream for topical use.

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13. A composition according to claim 13 which is adapted for oral administration.

14. The use of an agent according to any one of claims 1 to 7 in the treatment of cancer.

15. The use of an agent according to any of claims 8 to 10 in the diagnosis of cancer.

20 16. The use of an agent according to any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in the preparation of a medicament for the diagnosis or treatment of cancer.

25 17. A method of treating cancer which comprises administering to cancer cells an agent according to any one of claims 1 to 10 or a composition according to any one of claims 11 to 13.

30 18. A method of diagnosing cancer which method comprises applying to cells which are suspected of being cancerous, an agent according to any one of claims 1 to 10 and observing penetration of said agent into the nucleus of the cells.

19. A method according to claim 18 which is carried out in vitro on a sample removed from a patient.

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C2